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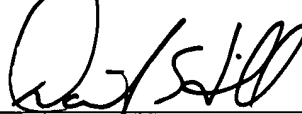
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's detailed consideration of the present application. In response to the September 25, 2003 and July 14, 2004 Office Actions, Claims 1-30 stand canceled, Claims 31-47 stand withdrawn, and new Claims 48-64 have been added for examination. Importantly, new Claim 48 corresponds to an amended version of previously pending Claim 13 which had originally been elected for examination and consideration.

1 CONCLUSION

2 Applicants submit that the present invention as claimed represents a novel and patentable
3 contribution to the art, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable
4 action is respectfully requested.

Date: October 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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